

specifying a product and each component within the product;

searching each of the information templates for the specified components disposed within each product;

identifying at least one supplier from the plurality of suppliers by use of said search;

causing a design file of said product to be created by performing the steps of

transmitting at least one computerized design file associated with each component disposed within said product created from each of said identified suppliers from the plurality of suppliers to a purchaser, and

selectively using said at least one transmitted computerized design file to create a three dimensional prototype of said product; and

purchasing said product from said at least one identified supplier from the plurality of suppliers.

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(3) (Amended) The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

storing said three dimensional prototype of said product within an associated information template database; and

evaluating said design file before purchasing said product.

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(13) (Amended) A method for purchasing a product comprising the steps of:

fixing attributes of said product;

decomposing said product into several interconnected components;

identifying a plurality of suppliers;

creating an information template having a dynamically configurable and searchable field which specifies a plurality of attributes related to an interrelationship of the several interconnected components for each of said plurality of suppliers, each of said information templates further containing information identifying the respective products and components provided by the supplier, a cost of producing each of said respectively provided products and components, and the time required to provide each of said respective products and components; and

searching said information templates in order to identify suppliers of said product and said several interconnected components.

(15) (Amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of:

identifying at least one supplier from a plurality of suppliers for each of said several interconnected components by use of said information templates.